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**Telegram to Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry from Ambassador to Cuba Pavlíček
31 October 1962**

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NEWSFLASH!

Gregor.

Carlos Rafael Rodriguez visited me and informed me of the crushing impressions and the situation in which Fidel and the government find themselves in with regards to the Cuban people; for Fidel was not at all informed of the order to dismantle nor of the UN inspection, to which he was categorically opposed. At the same time they see no guarantees that could be given to Cuba for they do not trust the USA. Therefore they are focusing their efforts on having Fidel's 5 Points fulfilled. Explanations that Cuba was not abandoned are spreading in an explosive fashion amongst the population. Rodriguez confirmed that Alekseev learned of the order to dismantle from my telephone conversation, based on news from *Prensa Latina*.

A crushing mood also prevails amongst the Soviet friends. After receiving the order the Soviet personnel absolutely did not understand and cried. Some experts and technicians refused to work further and there were many instances of drunkenness in old Havana. Rodriguez said that they are awaiting the arrival of Mikojan. Despite this, he said that the actions of the Soviet Union will have a catastrophic effect for the USSR's position, as well as that of the entire socialist camp and Latin America. He sees only a partial salvation of the situation in the form of perfect guarantees, in which he does not believe anyhow. The internal situation will depend much on Fidel's speech of 1 November. U Thant's preliminary discussions are not yet known. The concrete negotiations should take place on 31 October. Brazil should send some of its suggestions, which Goulart will voice straight away. The position of our experts and technicians amongst the Cuban colleagues is difficult. They are met with a series of comments and innuendos suggesting that we all abandoned Cuba – also considerable disorientation amongst a series of friends. When possible, I ask for your information and directions.

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[Source: Central State Archive, Archive of the CC CPCz, (Prague); File: "Antonín Novotný, Kuba," Box 122. Obtained by Oldřich Tůma. Translated by Linda Mastalir.]